

What resources are available?

There are plenty of resources available online for backyard bird feeding. The following is a list of popular resources:

The National Audubon Society:



<https://www.audubon.org/news/11-tips-feeding-backyard-birds>

The Humane Society of The United States:

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/feeding-your-backyard-birds>



The National Wildlife Federation:



<https://blog.nwf.org/2011/05/a-beginner%E2%80%99s-guide-to-backyard-bird-feeding/>

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service:

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/backyard/bird-feeding.php>



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A Guide to Bird Feeding in the Town of Colma



Ingunn B. Haslekaas / Getty Images



"It's Great to be Alive in Colma"

Is bird feeding allowed in Colma?



In 2020 The Town of Colma City Council adopted an ordinance regarding bird feeding. The Ordinance

amended the Colma Municipal Code to prohibit the feeding of wild birds and animals on both public and private property. This Ordinance provides the following two exceptions for bird feeding on private property:

- **Exception One:** The unintentional feeding of any wild bird or animal as a result of leaving food at a single gravesite within a cemetery.
- **Exception Two:** The Use of bird or hummingbird feeders on single-family developed properties. However, these feeders shall not create a nuisance. The feeders must be suspended off the ground to prevent the feeding of other wild animals or rodents.

The first violation of the ordinance the town will provide a warning. Repeated violations will result in a citation and fines.

What should I feed the birds ?

The use of bird and hummingbird feeders on single-family properties is allowed, however, the feeders can only be filled with bird seed or bird feed.

Some foods are toxic and other foodstuffs may harm birds. The Humane Society recommends that the following foods **not** be fed to birds:

Bread: provides no nutritional value for birds; moldy bread can harm birds

Chocolate: toxic to birds, just as it is to dogs or cats

Table scraps: some may be toxic or unhealthy to birds. Table scraps also attract mice and other rodents.

Instead of these foods you should offer a variety of **seeds, nuts and fruits.**

A more extensive list can be found at the link below:



<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/feeding-your-backyard-birds>

Can bird feeding be a nuisance?

Bird feeding allowed under the ordinance can become a **nuisance** when:

- It creates an unreasonable disturbance on neighboring properties, or
- It creates an accumulation of droppings on the property or surrounding properties, or
- It attracts rodents and other wild animals or known nuisance birds.

There are three birds which are known to cause a nuisance in Colma:

1. **Pigeons:** tend to congregate together in large groups, leave droppings everywhere, and are known carriers of bacteria which are harmful to humans. They are also known to cause substantial property damage.
2. **Seagulls:** leave droppings everywhere, tear into trash strewn everywhere, and are possessive and territorial and are known to attack humans.
3. **Crows:** are known to be destructive to gardens, and are known to attack humans coming near a nest.